

A2
200
Sub B2
an injection-molded microcellular polymeric material having an average cell size of less than 100 microns; and
a substrate adhered to a surface of the microcellular polymeric material in the absence of an external adhesive.

A3
Sub B2
24. (Amended) An in-mold decorated article comprising:
an injection-molded polymeric foam material wherein at least 70% of the total number of cells have a cell size of less than 150 microns; and
a single layer substrate adhered to a surface of the polymeric foam material, wherein the article has a non-planar surface.

A4
Sub B4
28. (Amended) An in-mold decorated article comprising:
an injection-molded polymeric foam material; and
a single-layer fabric substrate adhered to a surface of the polymeric material, wherein the article has a non-planar surface.

A5
Sub B5
31. (Amended) An in-mold decorated article comprising:
an injection-molded microcellular polymeric material having an average cell size of less than 100 microns and a softening temperature; and
a substrate adhered to a surface of the injection molded polymeric material, the substrate comprising a polymer having a softening temperature, wherein the softening temperature of the injection molded polymeric material is within 20°C of the softening temperature of the polymer of the substrate and the article has a non-planar surface.

Please add the following new claims:

- A6
60. (New) The article of claim 1, wherein the article has a curved cross-section.
61. (New) The article of claim 24, wherein the article has a curved cross-section.

62. (New) The article of claim 28, wherein the article has a curved cross-section.
63. (New) The article of claim 31, wherein the article has a curved cross-section.
64. (New) The article of claim 1, wherein the substrate is adhered to a surface of the microcellular polymeric material in the absence of an external adhesive.
65. (New) The article of claim 8, wherein the substrate has a single layer.
66. (New) The article of claim 8, wherein the substrate comprises a fabric material.
67. (New) The article of claim 66, wherein the substrate comprises a single layer fabric material having a thickness of less than 0.01 inches.
68. (New) The article of claim 8, wherein the substrate comprises a plastic film.
69. (New) The article of claim 8, wherein the microcellular polymeric material is essentially free of any residual chemical blowing agent or reaction by-product of chemical blowing agent.
70. (New) The article of claim 8, wherein the microcellular polymeric material has a softening temperature and the substrate comprises a polymer having a softening temperature within 20°C of the softening temperature of the microcellular polymeric material.
71. (New) The article of claim 8, wherein the substrate comprises a polymer having a softening temperature within 10°C of the softening temperature of the microcellular polymeric material.

72. (New) The article of claim 71, wherein the substrate comprises a polymer having a softening temperature substantially equal to the softening temperature of the microcellular polymeric material.

73. (New) The article of claim 8, wherein the polymeric material comprises polypropylene and the substrate comprises polypropylene.

74. (New) The article of claim 8, wherein the polymeric material comprises acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene and the substrate comprises polystyrene.

75. (New) The article of claim 8, wherein the microcellular polymeric material has a void fraction of less than about 0.50.

76. (New) The article of claim 75, wherein the microcellular polymeric material article has a void fraction of between about 0.05 and about 0.30.

77. (New) The article of claim 8, wherein the article has a thickness of less than 0.1 inches.

78. (New) The article of claim 8, wherein the article has a length-to-thickness ratio of at least about 50:1.

79. (New) The article of claim 8, wherein the article has a length-to-thickness ratio of at least about 100:1.

80. (New) The article of claim 8, wherein the article has a length-to-thickness ratio of at least about 200:1.

81. (New) The article of claim 8, wherein the microcellular polymeric material has an average cell size of less than 50 microns.

82. (New) The article of claim 8, wherein the microcellular polymeric material has an average cell size of less than 25 microns.

83. (New) The article of claim 8, wherein the substrate includes decorative features.

84. (New) The article of claim 8, wherein the substrate covers an entire first side of the microcellular polymeric material.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-identified application. This Amendment is being filed along with a Request for Continued Examination. Applicant is addressing the outstanding rejections made in the Final Office Action mailed January 8, 2002 in this Amendment.

Claims 1-33 were pending. Claims 1, 8, 24, 28 and 31 have been amended. Claim 25 has been cancelled. Claims 60-84 have been added. Support for the amendments and newly added claims can be found in the specification, examples, and claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-24, 26-33, and 60-84 are now pending.

Summary of Telephone Interview with Examiner

Applicant thanks Examiner Vo for the courtesies extended in a telephone interview on October 2, 2002. Applicant is addressing the claim rejections in the manner discussed in the telephone interview.